

Labor Resources for Seneca, South Carolina

Executive Summary

This profile contains information about the labor force within a 30 minute and 45 minute commuting distance from the center of Seneca, South Carolina. Seneca is located in Oconee County, South Carolina.

The profile examines three issues: labor force characteristics, the availability of labor, and the average wages and salaries in the community of Seneca.

Labor Situation at a Glance in Seneca, South Carolina

Labor Force Characteristics	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Population, 2004	81,976	197,361	4,198,068
Labor Force, 2004	42,324	104,945	2,046,179
Availability of Labor	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Unemployed Workers, 2004	2,809	6,747	139,607
Unemployment Rate, 2004	6.6%	7.2%	6.8%
Workers Affected by Layoffs (Past 2 Years)	379	659	22,196
Average Wages	Oconee County	South Carolina	United States
2003 Avg. Weekly Wage	\$502	\$581	\$658

Labor Force Characteristics for Seneca, South Carolina

The composition and size of a community's labor force is linked very closely with demographic and economic conditions and trends in the region. The following labor force profile provides basic information on the population base and labor force characteristics so that the reader can better assess labor force conditions in the community.

Labor Force			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force 2004	42,324	104,945	2,046,179
Change since 2000	4,634	11,276	49,079
Population			
Population 2004	81,976	197,361	4,198,068
Change since 2000	2,826	10,026	186,056
Projected 2010	146,653	360,650	4,446,704
Gender Distribution			
Male	38,756	94,075	2,040,261
Female	43,220	103,286	2,132,454
Age Distribution			
Ages 20-34	16,966	42,144	875,330
Ages 35-49	17,254	42,127	925,330
Ages 50-64	15,387	36,553	739,980
20-54 *Prime Working Age	39,746	97,586	2,084,880
Highest Level of Educational Attainment			
High School	24,067	57,568	778,054
Some College	15,180	37,239	500,194
Associate Degree	5,672	13,964	173,428
Bachelors Degree	10,606	27,092	351,526
Post Bachelor	6,248	15,132	178,529

**Prime working age group:*
People between the ages of 18-54 are often referred to as the prime working age group. In staffing a new facility, prudent managers often prefer to staff its production work force with workers whose ages form a normal distribution curve. This provides for stability, flexibility and continuity of knowledge.

Source: 2004 Estimates Based on 2000 U.S. Census of Population and Woods and Poole, 2003 Edition

Employment Characteristics for Seneca, South Carolina

Total Employment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
2004	39,515	98,198	1,906,571

Total Employment data include all full and part-time wage and salaried workers in the area. These people may or may not reside in the area.

Monthly Employment by Sector In Oconee County			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	509	831	12,379
Mining	23	69	1,603
Utilities	486	1,328	11,891
Construction	2,844	7,602	111,730
Manufacturing	8,433	19,501	275,573
Wood product manufacturing	406	635	8,371
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	356	728	9,155
Primary metal manufacturing			6,317
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	1,077	2,207	27,357
Machinery manufacturing	164	535	21,278
Computer and electronic product manufacturing			7,666
Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.	139	411	10,748
Transportation equipment manufacturing	387	1,421	30,932
Furniture and related product manufacturing	43	138	4,225
Miscellaneous manufacturing	176	460	7,846
Food manufacturing	496	947	17,832
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing			1,445
Textile mills	360	1,442	40,207
Textile product mills	92	135	9,724
Apparel manufacturing	26	77	5,321
Paper manufacturing	259	778	14,710
Printing and related support activities	269	678	7,327
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing			288
Chemical manufacturing	282	836	21,659
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	145	621	23,054
Wholesale Trade	2,005	5,102	62,523
Retail Trade	8,093	20,069	224,031
Transportation and Warehousing	800	1,934	46,941
Education and Health Services	15,688	39,559	156,232
Leisure and Hospitality	5,923	15,040	192,748
Professional and Business Services	6,227	17,315	186,481

Source: 2003 Covered Wages, SC Employment Securities Commission

Largest Industries by Total Employment In Oconee County, SC

Company Name	City	Primary Product/Service	Employment	Date Est.
WestPoint Stevens-Finishing Plt	Clemson	Sheets & pillowcases	2000	
Schlumberger Electricity Inc	West Union	Electronic measuring devices	855	1962
Dunlop Slazenger Group	Westminster	Golf balls	600	1987
Square D Co	Seneca	Motor control centers	550	1987
Engelhard Corp-Chemical Catalyst Group	Seneca	Precious metal catalyst	360	1987
Timken	Walhalla	Thrust bearings	360	1960
Kendall Healthcare Products	Seneca	Anti-embolism stockings	350	1958
US Engine Valve Co	Westminster	Engine valves	330	1988
Borg Warner Torq Transfer Systems	Seneca	Transfer cases	270	1996
Johnson Controls-Oconee Plt	West Union	Auto battery components	238	1985
Kennametal IPG Clemson	Clemson	Twist drills	231	1961
Jacobs Chuck Mfg Co	Clemson	Drill & tap chucks	202	1902
Lift Technologies Inc	Westminster	Fork lift masts	150	1999
Oconee Publishing	Seneca	Newspapers	150	
Sealed Air Corp-Cryovac Inc	Seneca	Plastic film	142	1992
Nason Co	Walhalla	Electrical & vacuum switches	140	1986
BP Fabrics & Fibers Co	Seneca	Non woven fabric	140	1968
Avondale Mills	Walhalla	Yarn	105	1983
Ulbrich Precision Flat Wire	Westminster	Precision flat wire	90	1981
Parkway Products Inc	Seneca	Molded plastic materials	70	1998

Employer-Employee Relationship

Employer-employee relations in South Carolina are very stable and the state consistently ranks as one of the least unionized in the nation. In 2004, only 4.5 percent of the state's workers were members of a labor union. Additionally, the state has consistently had one of the lowest work stoppage rates in the United States. On average, less than .01 percent of working time was lost due to strikes in manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries combined.

Availability of Labor

Labor Force Participation & Unemployment

Labor Force Participation & Unemployment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force (2004)	42,324	104,945	2,046,179
Labor Force Change from 2000	4,634	11,276	49,079
Labor Force Participation Rate	52%	53%	49%
Unemployment (2004)	2,809	6,747	139,607
Unemployment Rate	6.6%	7.2%	6.8%

The *labor force participation* rate is the percentage which results from dividing the labor force count by the total population.

Unemployment reflects the total number of persons who do not have a job and are actively seeking employment.

Other Potential Sources of Labor Supply

Total Jobs Lost Due to Mass Closings and Layoffs Past Two Years			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Total	379	659	22,196
Manufacturing	215	412	19,196
Distribution	-	-	1,213
Service	164	246	1,745
Other	-	-	42

Recent closings and layoffs are a rich source of skilled and experienced labor for companies seeking to locate or expand in a given area. Industries in which layoffs and closings occur can provide some indication of the skills and knowledge-base of many unemployed and underemployed workers in a region.

Commuters to Other Areas			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Commuters to other areas	12,399	32,611	31,833

Source: 2000 U.S. Census of Population

Workers commuting to places outside their resident are a significant source of experienced labor for new and expanding industries. These workers may be willing to consider an opportunity for employment nearer their place of residence.

Recent Graduates of South Carolina's Colleges and Universities

Certificates/Degrees Conferred From Technical Colleges in Select Degrees Within 45 Minute Drive Time of Oconee County, SC	
Degree Area	Two Year Certificates/Degrees Conferred 2002 - 2004
Computer and Information Sciences (Total)	183
Data Processing Technology	79
Engineering Technologies (Total)	83
Electrical ,Electronic & Communications	9
Mechanical Engineering/Tech	*
Mechanic & Repair Technologies (Total)	116
Industrial Electronics	69
HVAC	24
Precision Production (Total)	100
Machine Tool Technology/Machinist	49

Graduation From South Carolina's Four Year Colleges and Universities In Select Degrees		
	Degrees Conferred (2002-2004)	
	Bachelors	Post- Grad
Computer and Information Science (Total)	910	108
Computer Engineering	150	149
Computer Programming	12	5
Engineering & Related Technologies (Total)	1,316	786
Chemical Engineering	136	38
Electrical Engineering	257	150
Industrial Engineering	78	44
Mechanical Engineering	268	95
Business Admin & Management	4,754	1,018
International Business/Trade	178	276

Source: South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

Wages and Salaries

Average Wage and Salary Comparison			
Sector	Oconee County	South Carolina	United States
Avg. Weekly Wages*	\$502	\$581	\$658
Avg. Annual Salary*	\$26,101	\$30,240	\$37,508
Avg. Hourly Prod. Wages**	N/A	\$14.73	\$16.14

*Covered Wages and Employment, 2003, SC Employment Securities Commission

** Employment & Earnings, 2004, U.S. Department of Labor

Average Annual Salary Manufacturing Sectors, 2004		
Sector	Oconee County	South Carolina
Manufacturing Total	\$35,701	\$39,027
Wood product	\$29,972	\$30,808
Nonmetallic mineral product	\$56,436	\$39,031
Primary metal	***	\$49,695
Fabricated metal product	\$35,846	\$37,533
Machinery	***	\$39,952
Computer and electronic product	***	\$40,186
Electrical equipment and appliance	***	\$40,178
Transportation equipment	***	\$44,099
Furniture and related product	***	\$27,907
Miscellaneous	\$22,729	\$34,350
Food	\$36,903	\$26,620
Beverage and tobacco product	***	\$35,765
Textile mills	***	\$31,898
Textile product mills	\$23,195	\$25,618
Apparel	***	\$23,705
Paper	***	\$55,139
Printing and related support activities	\$28,914	\$36,634
Petroleum and coal products	***	\$49,113
Chemical	***	\$50,870
Plastics and rubber products	***	\$46,620

***Indicates data suppressed

Source: Covered Wages and Employment, SC Employment Securities Commission

Occupational Wages In Seneca and Surrounding Area

Average Hourly Wages of Employees by Selected Non-Exempt Occupations For Oconee Area			
Non-Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Assemblers and Fabricators	\$8.08	\$10.57	\$13.01
Butchers and Meat Cutters	\$9.58	\$11.08	\$12.70
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	\$10.85	\$11.32	\$12.89
Chemical Equipment Operators	*	*	*
Chemical Plant & System Operators	*	*	*
Electrical & Electronic Equip Tenders	*	*	*
Extruding & Forming Machine Setters	*	*	*
Grinding & Lapping Machine Operators	*	*	*
Logging Equipment Operators	\$8.28	\$11.70	\$15.02
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$11.96	\$16.27	\$20.04
Machine Tool Setters & Tenders	\$13.87	\$15.08	\$16.77
Industrial Machinery Mechanics			
Machinists	\$12.90	\$14.76	\$16.85
Packaging & Filling Machine Op	\$9.15	\$11.40	\$13.19
Molding & Casting Machine Op	\$9.84	\$11.23	\$12.72
Sewing Machine Operators	\$6.62	\$8.36	\$9.99
Textile, Cutting Machine Operators	\$9.07	\$10.18	\$11.25
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$12.83	\$15.17	\$16.92
Welders, Cutters & Solderers	\$11.45	\$13.55	\$15.62
Woodworking Machine Setters	\$9.77	\$11.63	\$13.47
Average Salary of Employees by Selected Exempt Occupations For Oconee Area*			
Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Chemical Engineers	\$56,700	\$66,320	\$72,380
Computer Programmers	\$33,520	\$45,000	\$56,540
Engineers, NEC	*	*	*
First Line Production Man & Sup	\$30,860	\$40,700	\$49,220
Industrial Engineers	\$48,120	\$57,880	\$67,880
Mechanical Engineers	\$44,049	\$49,640	\$56,520

Source: Occupational Wage Survey, SC Employment Security Commission

* Indicates Suppressed Data or Data Not Available